



Architectural rendering of Animal Services Center opening in the Spring of 2008.

ANIMAL SERVICES CALENDAR 2007

Phone: 817-451-3436 Fax: 817-451-9573

ARLINGTON ANIMAL SERVICES
"Working Together to Make Arlington Better"

HOURS OF OPERATION

Administration

10:00 a.m. – 6:45 p.m. Monday – Friday

10:00 a.m. – 4:45 p.m. Saturday

Closed Sunday

Animal Center Hours (Viewing Hours)

10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Monday – Friday

10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Saturday

Closed Sunday

Field Service Hours

7:00 a.m. – 11 p.m. Monday – Friday

8:00 a.m. – 4:45 p.m. Saturday

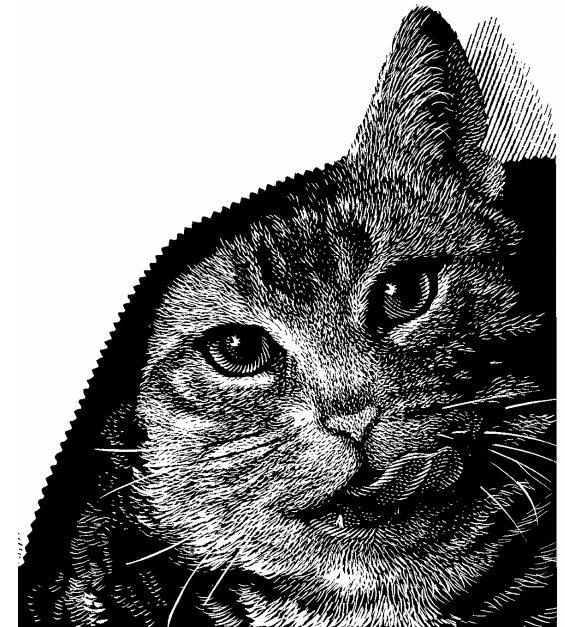
Emergency Calls for Service All Day Sunday

After Hours Emergency Calls for Service

11:00 p.m. – 7:00 a.m. Monday – Friday

After 4:45 p.m. Saturday

Emergency Calls for Service All Day Sunday



January 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

February – Solutions To Pet Overpopulation

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The 13th annual Spay Day USA will be held on Tuesday, February 27, 2007. Spay Day USA is a day to shine a national spotlight on spay/neuter as the simple, humane solution to the tragedy of pet overpopulation.

MYTH: *My pet will get fat and lazy.*

FACT: The truth is that most pets get fat and lazy because their owners feed them too much and don't give them enough exercise.

MYTH: *It's better to have one litter first.*

FACT: Medical evidence indicates just the opposite. In fact, the evidence shows that females spayed before their first heat are typically healthier. Many veterinarians now sterilize dogs and cats as young as eight weeks of age. Check with your veterinarian about the appropriate time for these procedures.

MYTH: *But my pet is a purebred.*

FACT: So is at least one out of every four pets brought to animal shelters around the country. There are just too many dogs and cats—mixed breed *and* purebred.

MYTH: *It's too expensive to have my pet spayed or neutered.*

FACT: The cost of spaying or neutering depends on the sex, size, and age of the pet, your veterinarian's fees, and a number of other variables. But whatever the actual price, spay or neuter surgery is a one-time cost—a relatively small cost when compared to all the benefits. It's a bargain compared to the cost of having a litter and ensuring the health of the mother and litter; two months of pregnancy and another two months until the litter is weaned can add up to significant veterinary bills and food costs if complications develop. Most importantly, it's a very small price to pay for the health of your pet and the prevention of the births of more unwanted pets.

MYTH: *I'll find good homes for all the puppies and kittens.*

FACT: You may find homes for all of your pet's litter. But each home you find means one less home for the dogs and cats in shelters who need good homes. Also, in less than one year's time, each of your pet's offspring may have his or her own litter, adding even more animals to the population. The problem of pet overpopulation is created and perpetuated one litter at a time.

MYTH: *I want my dog to be protective.*

FACT: Spaying or neutering does not affect a dog's natural instinct to protect home and family. A dog's personality is formed more by genetics and environment than by sex hormones.

MYTH: *My children should experience the miracle of birth.*

FACT: Even if children are able to see a pet give birth—which is unlikely, since it usually occurs at night and in seclusion—the lesson they will really learn is that animals can be created and discarded as it suits adults. Instead, it should be explained to children that the real miracle is life and that preventing the birth of some pets can save the lives of others.

MYTH: *I don't want my male dog or cat to feel like less of a male.*

FACT: Pets don't have any concept of sexual identity or ego. Neutering will not change a pet's basic personality. He doesn't suffer any kind of emotional reaction or identity crisis when neutered.

MYTH: *But my dog (or cat) is so special, I want a puppy (or kitten) just like her.*

FACT: A dog or cat may be a great pet, but that doesn't mean her offspring will be a carbon copy. Professional animal breeders who follow generations of bloodlines can't guarantee they will get just what they want out of a particular litter. A pet owner's chances are even slimmer. In fact, an entire litter of puppies or kittens might receive all of a pet's (and her mate's) worst characteristics.

February 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY	15	16	17
18	19 SHELTER CLOSED	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27 13 TH ANNUAL SPAY DAY USA	28			

March – Animal Awareness

HOW TO PLAY WITH YOUR CAT

By Pam Johnson http://www.sfspca.org/behavior/cat_library/index.shtml reprinted with permission

The right atmosphere is crucial when you're reawakening a cat's hunting skills. You'll need to transform your living room into a proper hunting ground. View the carpet as a field and the furniture as substitute trees. If you have a big open space, add additional bushes by scattering a couple of boxes or paper bags in the room. Your cat needs places to hide while it inches closer to its prey. As it's peeking out from behind the "bush", it can calculate its next move. You don't just want to exercise the kitty's muscles, you want it to rely on its intelligence.

The best toys for interactive play look like fishing poles. They can have feathers, streamers or a toy dangling from a string attached to a pole. When you use this kind of interactive toy for air hunting, your job will be to think like a bird. Don't just fly continually. A bird has to land occasionally and walk around. It may take two steps, stop for a few seconds, then fly off. If your cat is a ground hunter, your challenge will be to think like a mouse. Imagine what kind of moves a mouse would make. It might run under a chair and then sneak a peek to see if the coast is clear. Then it might dart across the room and hide behind the leg of a table. Sometimes just a subtle twitching of the toy can catch your cat's eye. Give your cat time to plan its attack. If you're only dangling the toy in its face, then the kitty is just relying on reflexes to bat at it rather than using intelligence to hunt.

When playtime is over, be sure to put all interactive toys away. These toys should be reserved for your play sessions. Between sessions you can leave furry mice and other safe toys down for solo play. Don't leave out too many because they'll soon lose their appeal. Rotating a few helps prevent boredom and your cat will think it's getting a new toy each time it reappears.

For your sessions to be most effective, play at least twice daily for about 10 to 15 minutes each time. A morning session before you go to work is a great way to say goodbye to your kitty. The play session when you get home is extremely important for an indoor cat because she probably napped much of the day.

Easing tension between companion cats can be helped by having each one play with its own interactive toy. This way, they're in the room together without having to fight over one toy. No one gets intimidated. Keep the cats a safe distance apart so no one gets a paw in the face. If one cat constantly backs away, more individual play time is needed to build confidence. Each cat needs to feel secure and safe so it can focus on enjoying the game. Soon, you may find the cat beginning to play cooperatively, even to the point of being willing to share a toy.

To ensure that playtime is completely enjoyable for your cat, allow it to have many good captures during the game. It may have even snatch the toy and begin to walk off to a hiding spot. After a moment you can let the toy come to life again and continue the game. If you always keep the toy out of reach, the game will become frustrating.

When you want to end the play session, begin by decreasing the intensity of the activity. The injured "prey" should begin to "die". This will slow your kitty down and be a more natural end to the hunt. You don't want to abruptly end the game, leaving the cat in an excited state.



March 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6 CITY COUNCIL RECOGNITION OF ANIMAL ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS	7	8	9	10
11	12 YOUTH CITIZENS ANIMAL AWARENESS CLASS 6–7:30pm	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26 INVITATION ANIMAL AWARENESS CLASS 6pm–7:30pm	27	28 ADULT CITIZENS ANIMAL AWARENESS CLASS 6–7:30pm	29	30	31

April – Animal Cruelty Prevention

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Animal Cruelty: Acts of violence or neglect perpetrated against animals are considered animal cruelty. Some examples are overt abuse, dog fighting and cockfighting, and denying a companion animals the basic necessities of care, such as food, water or shelter.

Animal Hoarding or Collecting: Obsessive/compulsive disorder in which individual keeps a large number of animals-sometimes more than 100-in his or her home, and neglects to care for the animals and the home environment; "collectors" are usually in extreme denial about the situation. Technically, hoarding can be considered a crime, as it is a form of neglect.

Animal Welfare Act: Act passed into law in 1966 that ensures that pets and animals used in research and for exhibition purposes are provided humane care and treatment. The act also assures the humane treatment of animals during transportation in commerce and outlaws the sale or use of animals who have been stolen.

Backyard Breeder: Dog owner whose pet either gets bred by accident, or who breeds on purpose for a variety of reasons-a desire to make extra money, for example, or to let the children witness "the miracle of birth." The animals involved are usually not tested for genetic or health problems, and there usually is no thought to where the pups will go. Unfortunately, a backyard breeder can easily become a commercial breeder.

Cockfighting: A blood sport in which two roosters specifically bred for aggressiveness are placed beak to beak in a small ring and encouraged to fight to the death.

Felony Cruelty: Animal cruelty is considered a crime in all 50 states, but in some states it is taken more seriously-and carries a felony charge, rather than a misdemeanor.

Feral Cat: A cat too poorly socialized to be handled and who cannot be placed into a typical pet home; a subpopulation of free-roaming cats.

Intentional Cruelty: Intentional cruelty occurs when an individual purposely inflicts physical harm or injury on an animal; usually an indicator of a serious human behavior problem.

Neglect: The failure to provide an animal with the most basic of requirements of food, water, shelter and veterinary care. Neglect is often the result of simple ignorance on the animal owner's part and is usually handled by requiring the owner to correct the situation.

Puppy Mill/Kitty Mill: Breeding facilities that produce large numbers of purebred dogs and cats. The animals are regularly sold to pet shops across the country. Documented problems of puppy mills include over breeding, inbreeding, poor veterinary care and overcrowding.

April 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6 SHELTER CLOSED	7
8 EASTER SUNDAY	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 UTA EARTH DAY 10 AM – 2 PM MOBILE UNIT	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

May – Bite Prevention

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Q: How can I avoid being bitten by a dog?

A: Never approach a strange dog, especially one who's tied or confined behind a fence or in a car. Don't pet a dog—even your own—without letting him see and sniff you first. Never turn your back to a dog and run away. A dog's natural instinct will be to chase and catch you. Don't disturb a dog while she's sleeping, eating, chewing on a toy, or caring for puppies. Be cautious around strange dogs. Always assume that a dog who doesn't know you may see you as an intruder or a threat.

Q: What should I do if I think a dog may attack?

A: If you are approached by a dog who may attack you, follow these steps:

- Never scream and run.
- Remain motionless, hands at your sides, and avoid eye contact with the dog.
- Once the dog loses interest in you, slowly back away until he is out of sight.
- If the dog does attack, "feed" him your jacket, purse, bicycle, or anything that you can put between yourself and the dog.
- If you fall or are knocked to the ground, curl into a ball with your hands over your ears and remain motionless. Try not to scream or roll around.



May 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
ANIMAL AWARENESS AND SAFETY PROGRAMS PRESENTED IN THE SCHOOLS	Adoptathon Weekend Fun....Fun.....Fun \$15 Microchips \$10 Rabies	1	2	3	4	5 ADOPTATHON WEEKEND EVENTS AT THE SHELTER
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 NATIONAL DOG BITE PREVENTION WEEK	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28 SHELTER CLOSED	29	30	31		

June – Adopt a Shelter Cat

Your Cat is Safer Indoors

©The Cat Fanciers' Association www.CFA.org Used with permission

Only those who have had a cat can truly appreciate the contentment and the shared affection such a companion can bring. Cats are, to millions of people, the most fascinating of non-human associates, the most fun to be with, to watch and be watched by in a companionship that is warm on both sides, yet not to the point of slopping over. With a cat, it is a basis of mutual self-respect. A cat as on a ranch. His throaty purr coat against your cheeks fills you independent. We who are the cat is one of the most poorly because the cat is a realist and for doing them.

One big advantage of a pet cat over their litter tray and therefore there you really love your cat and value unless he is with you in a carrier. will be run over, poisoned, shot or pet picking up a disease, such as your family. Fleas, ear mites, parasites may be contracted from other cats, he may develop is kept indoors, no one can in any way creating a dislike for our other people, nor allow them to has never been outdoors will have



is as content to live with you in a room calms you like a lullaby and his silky with peace. Yet he remains utterly interested in cats must remember that understood of all animals. Why? Simply does things because there is a reason

a dog is the fact that cats naturally use is no need to turn them out. In fact, if him, you will never let him out of doors Unattended, the odds are that your cat stolen. There is also a danger of your rabies, thus endangering the lives of fungus skin disease, and intestinal other cats and animals. By fighting with abscesses due to bites. When your cat complain about him. In order to avoid pets, we must not let them disturb roam on their premises. A cat which no desire to go out.

Let us all do our part by keeping our pet cat at home! Keep him in clean quarters, properly fed, and above all, loved. A clean litter pan and fresh water should always be supplied and changed daily. Each cat at birth is one of God's creatures and deserves to be kept clean, in pleasant surroundings, well fed and loved. No animals should be treated as a "thing" by letting children mishandle him as if he were a toy.

June 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
ADOPT A SHELTER CAT MONTH	FELINE AWARENESS THE ENTIRE MONTH AT THE SHELTER				1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16 PARKS MALL ADOPTIONS 10 AM – 4 PM
17 FATHER'S DAY	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

July – National Dog Day

Getting Started with Obedience Training

Permission to reprint from Janet Wall's How to Love Your Dog at <http://loveyourdog.com>



Why should I understand 'Pack Behavior'? Like humans, dogs have families. For dogs, these families are called packs. In a pack there is always one leader and several followers. The leader is the dog who makes the rules and watches out for others in the pack. When a dog lives in your house, your family becomes his family, or 'pack'.

It is important that you let your dog know who the leader is. If he doesn't know, he will try to become the leader. It's an instinct (he's born with it) to try to be a leader. When this happens, a dog may be pushy and not follow the rules. By teaching the dog obedience and giving him things to do, he will realize that a human is the leader and he will follow, instead of lead.

Many dogs are left with nothing to do all day long. They can become bored and lonely. When that happens, they might chew, dig, or bark too much. Or they might sleep all day, which isn't healthy. Taking your dog to classes, or teaching him yourself gives him something to do and helps build his confidence...and yours, too.

Another reason why obedience training is a good thing to do with you dog, is that it's fun. Yes, fun! You get to take your dog out in public and meet other dogs and new friends. You both get some exercise and you can learn tricks and other things that are fun to show to your friends.

TIP! Dog training classes are not really for your dog. When you take your dog to a training class, the lessons are for you. The first word you need to learn is: PATIENCE, PATIENCE, PATIENCE! This is a time for you to learn: 1. what commands to use 2. how to teach these commands to your dog 3. how to praise your dog

It is your opportunity to see an expert in action and ask any questions you might have. After learning how to teach your dog, then you can go home and practice, practice, practice!

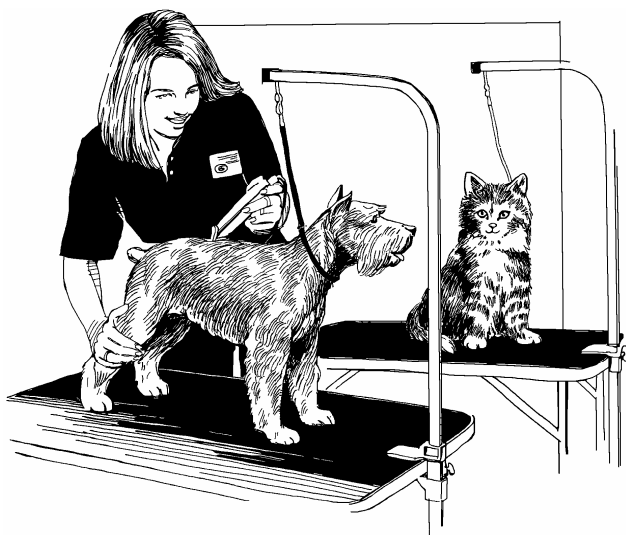
July 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4 ARLINGTON INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS - .LEAVING ANIMALS IN PARKED VEHICLES

August - Responsible Pet Owner Month

QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF BEFORE ADOPTING

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Caring for a companion animal goes far beyond providing food, water and shelter. It's smart to do your research and careful planning before bringing a dog or cat home. What are *your* answers to the following questions?

1. ARE YOU READY TO MAKE A LONG-TERM COMMITMENT?

Your pet may be with you for a very long time. Did you know that dogs can live from 10-15 years, and cats for up to 20 years? You may go through many changes in your life-moves, marriages, the birth of children, new jobs and new houses-but your animal will be a permanent part of your life. And since dogs and cats can bond deeply with their families, it can be heartbreaking for the pet-and for the family-should that bond be broken if you cannot care for your animal. Are you up for it?

2. CAN YOU SPEND QUALITY TIME WITH THIS ANIMAL?

Canines thrive on several hours of exercise and companionship every day, and dogs who are constantly left alone can develop behavioral problems. Cats are healthiest and happiest indoors, with their human families. Felines who live outside face dangers from other animals and people, and may prey on wildlife.

3. WILL YOU BE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR PET'S HEALTH AND SAFETY?

The cost of owning a dog or cat is a more than the initial adoption fee! When estimating the total amount, remember to include basic and emergency veterinary care, toys, supplies and food. You'll also need to spay or neuter your pet, and make sure that he or she has proper identification-that means a collar and tags and a more permanent form of ID such as microchipping.

4. DO YOU KNOW WHAT KIND OF PET IS RIGHT FOR YOU?

Dogs and cats are not right for every household. Problems such as allergies, apartment restrictions, or moving issues should be explored before adopting a new pet. Large dogs may be too strong or active for small children, while small pets may be too delicate for children. It's smart to ask the shelter staff what animals they recommend for your household-they're experts at making perfect matches!

August 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
PICTURES OF RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERS POSTED IN THE LOBBY ALL MONTH			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

September – Shelter Employee and Volunteer Appreciation

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There's a place in your community where the hungry are fed, the homeless are sheltered, and the abandoned are provided care. It's your local animal shelter, which provides comfort and care for unwanted animals.

Your shelter also offers many other services for pets and their owners—and even for people without pets. To do all this, it relies on support from people like you. Here are a few ways you can help animals, especially at your local shelter:

- Give a little bit. Donate food, old blankets, towels, or other needed supplies. Contribute to one of its special programs.
- Lend a hand. Volunteer your time. Bathe and groom the animals, walk dogs, or play with cats. Stuff envelopes for a mailing. Help publicize an event.
- Find that special someone. Choose your next pet from your local shelter, which has many wonderful dogs and cats, in different shapes and sizes, just waiting for a permanent, loving home.
- Help spread the word. Tell your friends about your shelter's services. Promote animal safety and responsible pet ownership. Celebrate National Animal Shelter Appreciation Week during the first full week of November.
- Be a responsible pet owner. Keep current identification on your dog or cat at all times. Spay or neuter your pet. Always keep your dog or cat properly confined or supervised. In addition to the basics—food, water, shelter, and veterinary care—give your pet lots of love and attention.
- Vote for the animals. Support legislation to protect animals. Contact government officials and urge them to support pro-animal legislation.
- Be a hero. Report animal cruelty and neglect as well as injured or stray animals. You may prevent suffering and even save a life.
- Teach your children well. Instruct children in how to care for animals properly and how to treat them with kindness. Set an example by doing the same.



September 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3 SHELTER CLOSED	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29 EMPLOYEE AND VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DAY
30						

October – Adopt a Shelter Dog Month

Puppy Preparedness: READYING THE HOME FOR A NEW CANINE ARRIVAL

Samarra Khaja Copyright © 2006 The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) Reprinted with permission of the ASPCA. All Rights Reserved.

Bringing home a new puppy is truly one of life's joys. Thoughtful pre-puppy preparations and a well planned first 24 hours can give your fuzzy bundle of promise a head start and make your dreams of the perfect family dog come true.

Before the Big Day

Family meetings should cover scheduling: *Who will take the pup to the papers or backyard and when? Who will be in charge of feedings three to four times a day? Who will make veterinary appointments for vaccinations and deworming?*

Also, take time to create a vocabulary list everyone will use. If Mom says "down" when Puppies climbs on the couch, Dad says "down" when he wants him to lie down, and Junior utters "sit down" when he expects the pup's rear to hit the floor, the result will be one confused dog! Next, draft a shopping list and purchase supplies: food and water bowls, chew toys, grooming supplies, bedding, collar and leash, identification tag, crate, gate, and odor neutralizer.

You'll need to puppy-proof the area where the youngster will spend most of his time the first few months. This may mean taping loose electrical cords to baseboards; storing household chemicals on high shelves; removing plants, rugs, and breakables; setting up the crate; and installing gates. Once you think you've completely puppy-proofed, lie on the floor and look around once more to get a puppy's-eye view. If you have children, hold one last meeting to lay down the rules: Don't overwhelm Pup the first day, and don't fight over him or create mob scenes showing him to the neighborhood. Now you're off to get Puppies.

Getting Off on the Right Paw

When you pick up your pup, remember to ask what and when he was fed. If you wish to switch to a different brand, do so over a period of about a week by adding one part new brand to three parts of the old for several days; then switch to equal parts; and then one part old to three parts new.

From the start, consistency is important. Take him to his toileting area immediately. From there, carry out your schedule for feeding, toileting, napping, and play/exercise. From Day One, your pup will need family time and brief periods of solitary confinement. Solitude may be new to Puppies, so he may vocalize concern. Don't give in and comfort him or you may create a monster. "Gee, if making noise brought them running once, maybe more whimpering is needed to get their attention again," reasons the pup. Give him attention for good behavior, such as chewing on a toy or resting quietly. Doing things correctly from the start prevents confusion. Through puppy preparedness, you are one step closer to your Dream Dog.



October 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
ADOPT A SHELTER DOG MONTH	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27 PARKS MALL ADOPTIONS 10 AM – 4 PM
28	29	30	31			

November – National Animal Appreciation

Health Benefits of Pet Ownership

Ursula Cunningham © 2003 Animal News Center, Inc.

The unique bond we share with our pets dramatically enriches our lives, our physical health and our emotional well-being. Many studies have shown that while we are taking care of our pets, our pets are taking care of us.

In fact...

- **Pets Help to Lower Blood Pressure.** A recent study at the State University of New York at Buffalo found that people with hypertension who adopted a cat or dog had lower blood pressure readings in stressful situations than did those who did not own a pet. *(Dr. Karen Allen, State University of New York at Buffalo)*
- **Pets Help to Reduce Stress.** Walking with a pet helps to sooth nerves and offers instant relaxation. Studies conducted worldwide have shown that the impact of a stressful situation is lesser on pet owners, especially males, than on those who do not own a pet. *(Josephine M. Wills, Waltham Centre for Pet Nutrition, United Kingdom)*
- **Pets Help to Prevent Heart Disease.** Because pets provide people with faithful companionship, research shows they may also provide their owners with greater psychological stability, thus a measure of protection from heart disease. *(National Institute of Health Technology Assessment Workshop: Health Benefits of Pets)*
- **Pets Help to Lower Health Care Costs.** People with pets actually make fewer doctor visits, especially for non-serious medical conditions. *(National Institute of Health Technology Assessment Workshop: Health Benefits of Pets)*
- **Pets Help to Fight Depression.** Pets help fight depression and loneliness, promoting an interest in life. When seniors face adversity or trauma, affection from pets takes on great meaning. Their bonding behavior can foster a sense of security. *(Between Pets and People: The Importance of Animal Companionship)*

November 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Animal Appreciation Day \$15 Microchips \$10 Rabies				1	2	3 ANIMAL APPRECIATION OBSERVANCE DAY
4 ANIMAL APPRECIATION WEEK	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 VETERAN'S DAY	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22 SHELTER CLOSED	23 SHELTER CLOSED	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

December – Home for the Holiday

Giving Animals as Gifts

©Karen Lawrence Used with permission of Fanc-e-Mews www.CFA.org/ezone

It is exceptionally important that the person who will be the primary care-giver for the new pet has a say in the choosing of that pet. You will want to be certain that if the recipient is getting an animal that will share their home for years to come, it must be that they are fully prepared to look after the chosen pet. Questions must be answered before a pet can be given as a gift.

- *Is the recipient prepared to have a 24 hour a day, 7 day a week, 52 week a year live-in companion that demands daily care and attention?*
- *Does their lifestyle allow for the care and attention that a pet will need?*
- *Are they fully prepared for a 10-15 year commitment to housing a pet?*
- *Do they want a pet that has a high activity level or one with a relatively low activity level?*
- *Is the chosen breed one they are able to handle (do they want large or small in size?)*
- *Is there a color they particularly fancy?*
- *Does the breed have a coat they are able to maintain?*
- *Is the recipient able to accept the financial responsibility that a new pet requires?*
- *If the recipient lives in an apartment, does the management allow pets?*



The fact that answers to these questions are not always readily apparent is the reason that it is the practice of many breeders and shelters, **not** to sell their animals as "presents" or "gifts". Often, the hustle and bustle of a holiday period is simply too much excitement for a new pet, and it will be easier for them to adjust to a new home after the festivities are over.

What's the Alternative?

There are several ways that one could handle the giving of a pet as a "gift". These will save any possible "unpleasant" surprises.

- Give a photo of a specific breed along with a gift certificate for an animal. The excitement and anticipation of the chance to choose your own special pet is always welcomed.
- Give a book on pets and pet care, with a gift certificate for a new pet IF the recipient wants one.
- Give a variety of supplies that a pet might need, such as food bowls, litter pan, etc. along with a gift certificate for a pet of their choice.
- Or, simply give a gift certificate for a "pet of your choosing".

December 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8 PICTURES WITH SANTA - SHELTER 10AM-4PM
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24 SHELTER CLOSED	25 SHELTER CLOSED	26	27	28	29
30	31 NEW YEARS EVE					